**Minutes of the Vestry
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
October 25, 2017**

**Present:** Senior Warden Barney Forsythe, Mike Seymour, Treasurer Bob Pinkerton, Tom Miller, John Moses, Patty Crower, Linda Finnin

**Absent:** Rev. Roy Tripp, Teege Culp, Beth Campbell, Westley Byrne

Patty opened with prayer.

Barney called the meeting to order and the agenda was approved.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**Vestry Liaison Reports**

**Prison Ministry**—Mike reported that they are at the end of a two-year prison ministry program and they hope to start a mission at the Estill Correctional Institution. They hope to begin a study of The Gospel of Matthew with inmates.

**Treasurer’s Report**—Bob reported that we will probably catch up the loss from the summer.

**Facilities Committee**—Tom Miller reported that there have been various rumors about a possible sale of Union Church. He is meeting with someone from the Diocese and after that with someone with TEC in New York. The group has had two productive meetings. Barney stated his hope that the group will lay out a variety of options, and Tom said they will probably present three. Bob pointed out that the lawsuit between the Diocese and the breakaways could make a difference. Mike Seymour wanted to go on the record that he thinks we do not need a building that is exclusively a worship space. Barney pointed out that the charge to the committee is to listen to the congregation.

**Old Business**

**Name Tag Holder**—Tom announced that a new one has been obtained.

**Vestry Retreat follow-up--**Since the retreat, according to Barney, we have sent a letter to the congregation summarizing the it. Barney has talked to Alison and she is on board and will bring the Outreach Committee on board. He believes the Outreach Committee can help us go beyond our walls and listen to the community. Mike thinks there needs to be a timeline or action plan to plan what we need to do next. Barney mentioned a subgroup of congregants, which Mike volunteered to be part of. Alison will be stepping down as Outreach Committee chairperson soon. Mike suggested getting people outside the congregation involved; i.e., PR Methodist, YMCA. Mike, Barney and Westley will get this started.

**2018 Budget**—Barney suggested we see how much has been pledged at the end of the pledge drive, reallocate the funds, then compile a budget to present to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

**Pledge Drive**-- Pledge Sunday and end of the pledge drive is November 19. Pledges will be presented at both services. John reported that the time of this meeting, $163,310 had been received from 62 units. The average pledge is $2634.

**Vestry candidates**—Teege was not at the meeting to report.

**Trunk or Treat**—Mike reported that 39 or 40 cars will participate and that we have had many candy donations. Gale Swann and Jane Twenge canvassed all the businesses in Port Royal. Mike estimates that we received $700 in donations. He has had a team that included people from the YMCA and Port Royal United Methodist Church. St. Mark’s is giving away free hotdogs.

**New Business**

**Defibrillator**—Members of the congregation have suggested that we purchase a defibrillator for Union Church. Barney searched online and they range from $500 to $5000. Barney will ask Westley to look into this and come back with a suggestion. Patty mentioned that the PR Fire Department is just a few blocks away, which might preclude our having to make the purchase.

**Flower Guild**—Peggy Dixon has been contributing an occasional flower arrangement for Sundays. Members of the congregation have suggested the possibility of contributing $30 (check made out to St. Mark’s) and having the arrangements be a memorial or gift of thanksgiving. Peggy would submit her receipts to St. Mark’s for reimbursement. Barney will speak with Roy about how to make this happen.

**Update on Diocesan Visioning Committee**—Barney reported that this Committee was tasked to write a mission statement or visioning statement. A huge variety was submitted. Michael Wright suggested using the Seal of the Diocese of SC as a model. This will have to wait on the outcome of the Federal lawsuit.

**Diocesan Convention**—Our delegates and alternates are set, but Beth Campbell cannot attend as an alternate.

**Around the table:**

Tom—People have just been brainstorming about the type of building we might have in the future. No decisions have been made.

Linda—A group of four people (“Connections”) has been calling members whom we haven’t seen in a while. Glenda Lee Nutting has joined the group.

The meeting closed with a prayer by John and adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Petroff
Vestry Clerk